DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES
Hoover, Without a Political Past, With Palmer and McAdoo in Forefront of Discussion

W
whether the League of Nations dominates
the election as a campaign issue, the great
problem facing the Democrats is to select a
candidate for President. Mere favorite sons
are eliminated at the outset. All secondary consider-
ations, sometimes decisive in previous contests, are be-
ing pushed aside in the urgency of an extraordinary
situation.

It may even come to pass that the standard-bearer of
the Democratic Party will be a man who never voted
the Democratic ticket and is so unsophisticated politi-
cally that in reaching a conclusion he is forced to ask
himself how many votes will be affected thereby than is a great adminis-
trator in private life in coming to a conclusion on a
business matter. This possibility, it is asserted, is the
measure of a new realism that evoked by the critical
days ahead, seems threatening to enter politics,
demanding that a proposition be considered searchingly
on its merits.

Is it sound? Is it constructive? Is it a mere
theory? Will it work? These are the questions, in-
stead of the old questions: Will this catch the Irish
vote, or the farmers' vote, or the labor vote?

That any one who not only has no "clean party
record," but who in fact has no party record, should by
influential leaders in the close councils of the party be
considered for the Democratic nomination is surely a
significant sign of the times.

Republican leaders complacent over the results in
the last two elections, look on and smile at the very
idea of so revolutionary a political procedure. They
think amply of their abundant supply of notable favor-
ite sons, the largest in many years. But that very
complacency, it is asserted, may prove their undoing,
as it may develop later that they were blind to the
coming of a new period in politics when small organ-
ized groups with special ends were to be subjected to
attack as to whether their proposal was good for the
country as a whole.

"There cannot be two conservative parties in this
country. The Democratic Party must keep on advanced
liberal ground while steering clear of radicalism; other-
wise it will ultimately be squeezed to death between
the Republican Party and a new party."

Bryan's challenge to the President will no doubt
arouse all Woodrow Wilson's fighting spirit, but his
health and the obstacle of the third term, no matter
how hot the contest may wax, are considered as stand-
ing against his becoming a candidate, though there is
no doubt that the League issue, whether or not the
treaty is ratified beforehand, will lead him to take a
keenly active interest in the personality of the nominee.

In the event that Wilson is out, who are the men who,
on the basis of their performances, may be considered
as making an appeal to the people of the whole
country?

Three are mentioned: A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney
General of the United States; William G. McAdoo, ex-
Secretary of the Treasury and former Director General
of the Railroads; both brought up within the Demo-
Cratic Party. The third man is Herbert Hoover, for-
mer Federal Food Administrator, who, the politicians
reckon, has no political past. What are the basis of
the claims made for these men by their immediate sup-
porters?

A. Mitchell Palmer is now most in the limelight. At
the outbreak of the war, his prospect for winning distinc-
tion during the war, as the average person would view
it, seemed small indeed. He is a Quaker, and be-
fore war was declared, or seemed likely, had declined
the post of Secretary of War in Wilson's Cabinet on

HERBERT HOOVER, WHO IS SAID NEVER TO HAVE VOTED THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

William G. McAdoo, Ex-Secretary of the Treasury.
A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General.

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politicalian of prominence at Washington, this will weigh distinctly against Mr. Palmer when the assets and liabilities of the various Democratic candidates for the nomination are finally summed up. The politician put it this way:

"We can't get along without the labor vote. We do not have to make concessions; all we have to do is show a friendly attitude. The prospect of winning without the labor vote, is pushing this whole element toward us, and we cannot afford to nominate any man for whom labor holds outright antagonism. We must remember that a great many of those who are shooting for Palmer are friends of the time when he comes to voting will vote the Republican ticket. Geographically Palmer is also in a weak position. Pennsylvania is hopelessly Republican."

Like Wilson, Palmer is a man of ideals, and this is said to have been from the first an attraction between them. He underestimates the President's course on the Peace Treaty, and no doubt would meet the Wilson standard that the nominee of the Democratic Party be a staunch supporter of the President's policy. Palmer's name first began to be mentioned as the possible nominee, it was said that he was delayed the unannounced action of the executive committee in support of Mr. McAdoo as manager of his campaign, an official at Washington known for his exceptional ability, was ready to be named, it is said, when the plans were submerged for the present. By others the explanation given is that McAdoo is waiting to see if there is a genuine demand for him, and if there is not he will not proceed with the candidacy for the nomination to be announced.

Many Democrats of influence believe that when all the pros and cons are looked over, McAdoo will be found to possess the strongest qualifications of any possible candidate, and he measures up to the standard of a national figure. Though the son-in-law of the President, he is to stand out clearly. Next to the President, until after the armistice and up to his nomination as Secretary of War, he was the largest burden of the war, in his double capacity of Secretary of the Interior and Head of the Railroads. As Secretary of the Treasury his achievement is considered by his admirers one of the greatest in the history of that office. As Director General of the Railroads he made them meet the supreme necessity of the hour in promptly transporting troops and supplies for the war. In some other respects there is not unstinted praise, but his contention is that the future will prove the soundness of his policies and fully justify his final recommendation that the control by the Government be extended for a determination by peaceful test of what was the best policy with regard to the railroads. On this subject he said:

"The right attitude is an open mind, a willingness to abide by what the test shows, whether that be a form of Government regulation or Federal ownership."

He wanted to avoid Federal ownership, but if the problems were not worked out on the basis of a study of conditions, the result would likely be ultimate Government ownership through blundering handling of the situation.

Remarkable developments in meeting difficulties of nation-wide scope is a McAdoo characteristic. A lawyer, with the spectacular achievement of having turned a notorious failure into complete success in the building of the McAdoo tube under the Hudson River, bankers were sharp in his criticism of his appointment of Secretary of the Treasury. But from the beginning, instead of looking on the perennial difficulties as necessary, he began to remove them; one of the first was to provide money for moving the crops. Then came the Federal Reserve act, which he had a share in shaping, to prevent the banks' worst, trouble, the panic of 1907.

The need of a merchant marine important to the United States, he was a leader in the movement that resulted in the great fleet of today. At the signing of the armistice, he was one of the first to speak out for a return, as soon as possible, to the free play of competition which marked the establishment of the bickser's worst, trouble, the panic of 1907.

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would be obtained from the American people by voluntary appeal, and he stood ready to assure your committee that he would get it. So, if you are in this country the European rationalizing system. The end richly justified his faith in the human mind. He knows that the community of interests, the food situation, other social problems have absorbed the attention of Hoover; he has no time for this. He is on the ground. He latey served as a member of the President's Industrial Commission. He can see the practicality that is required in the operation of a great chain of mines, never lost in theory, his admirers say, always practical in its results. He sees one way out of the overshadowing problem in this country, that the "standard of living is by increased pro-
duction; and to attain this the impulses which cause both the employer and the employe and the employer must equally be considered, a true co-ordination of effort.

Can Hoover, the business man, with a social sympathy that has extended over a large part of the world in relieving human suffering in our day, can he believe he can; they believe that his social interest and his business ability repu-
tate him to solve the problems of this country in devising a method of co-
operation which will avert a destructive social conflict and which will serve the interests of both the employer and the employe and the employer must equally be considered, a true co-ordination of effort.

"Hoover," said a Democratic admimirer at Washington, after remarking that some time ago the party had been considering his name as an ultimate resort, "has the inspiration-
al appeal. His is the ideal of a man, woman, and child in the United States. Wilson gave us the ideals; Hoover, with his practical engi-
neer's mind, guided by a sympathy and understanding of these ideals, will put them into effect." The group of possibilities for the Democratic nomination, more spoken of than of any of the others, may be men-
tioned. There is the leadership of the man who deploys the treaty delay; Senator Atlee Pomerene of the same State, who is a strong advocate of the bill which provides for the obtaining ratification without further de-
lay; Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Vermont, who is a supporter of the treaty, who depends on the letter sent by the President to the Jackson Day din-
nner; and Robert R. E. Mar-
shall, who has stated that he is not a candidate; James W. Gerard of New York, who is a candidate for New York, and is for compromising to procure ratifica-
tion of the treaty; John W. Davis of Illinois, who is a candidate, and E. Brittan, who is highly thought of for his constructive ideas.

Gerard, the only candidate who has made no secret of his support for North Dakota primary and is therefore in line to receive this vote, is one of the leading Democrats and is the man in the field for the primary and the election. In a Jackon Day letter to a Portland (Or.) banquet, he said: "The primary, the primary, on whose hand the party can make its choice, and Herbert Hoover is one of them."

It is the opportunist, opportunity, the political weaselling about,Governor Cox is probably the next spoken of at this time. His supporters say the argument is, "When he decides, and he has made an appeal, that he has been three times elected Governor of the pivotal State of Ohio, has a standing in the political and administration, and is a self made, successful businessman. He began life as a newspaperman, and among other interests is the publisher of two Ohio newspapers."

Another advantage claimed for Cox is that he would not be an administration man, whereas the other two are. Cox is under fifty and a man of great energy. Among the achievements of Cox is the President's Emergency Compensation act; a Child Labor law; a Mother's Pension system; a Budget system; a system to aid the bank de-
cucted profiteers, and removed the Mayor of Canton for not enforcing the law during his term; he is an instigator of the.requireNonNullment for a purebred, but he has not taken part in op-
position to the "drys," is strong for wo-
mankind, enjoys life all the way from golf to po-
ker."

The records of other facts which stand out are:

Pomerene is a Senator known for his unswerving devotion to the work of study of legislative problems con-
flicting the Senate. He has supported the law which has been so generally with the exclusion of labor and farmers from the Clayton Anti-Trust act; denounced the "drys," and so far as his strength to strike provision in the Cuninngill bill. Among the prominent measures his name in carry. John E. Woolson, United Parcel Post law, Federal Reserve act, Tariff Commission act, and Child Labor law. In 1892, he was a school teacher, and was born in that State in 1835.

Gerard's distinguished achievement from Germany, where was in the act of the sup-
duct as Ambassador to Germany in the years preceding our entry into the war, Mr. Gerard was able to influence the foreign policy of the United States, from his prominence in serving American inter-
ests and American citizens made a rec-
ord which won wide approval here. He has been an expert in international relations and is a lawyer and jurist, and served as Assoc-
iation of Justice of the Supreme Court of his State, as the Federal Court, is re-
arded as making it certain that Mr.
Adoo will lack the initial strength of a candidate which has enjoyed his favor. Gerard's strength will be thrown to an-
other.

This is looked upon by some as a man who might be brought forward in the event of a deadlock. He is held in high favor among the labor vote; he is a man of breadth and steadfastness. He was born at Clarkenburg, Va., in 1873, served in key public posts, and re-
tained to become Solicitor General of the United States, and as Ambassador at the German Embassy, with a strong impression on the English public.

Bryan, three times the Democratic can-
didate, and is in the race in 1908 and in 1909 on an anti-imperialism issue. In 1908 he ran his poorest race. The fact that the American people are determined to reject Bryan in 1909, and the fact that he is an insuperable obstacle to his choice. Since he resigned as Secretary of State in 1905, the fact that he is associated with the phraseology of a note to Germany, he has devoted most of his time to national politics. But it must be remembered that the current has not yet risen on the Demo-

cratic ticket, although the party has now past for it to have done so. It is held down by the fact that President Woodrow Wilson has not yet made announcement that he will not be a can-
didate for a third term. Until he does make such an announcement, the Democratic party will remain in a state of suspense.